

**A Chessboard**  
**Illustrating Believers Working Together**  
**Even Though We All Differ in**  
**Abilities, Talents and Gifts**



(Here is how I presented this object lesson, just as an example.)

How many of you know how to play chess? How many of you know how the different chess pieces move?

Each chess piece can move in certain ways, but there are ways that it cannot move. There are things each piece can do and things each piece cannot do.

Likewise, there are things some of you can do very well and there are things that you can't do well. For example, I like sports and when I was your age I was good at throwing a ball and playing basketball, and I could run fast. But there are some things that I was not good at. For example, I was not good at drawing pictures. When I was your age, I was very good at math but I wasn't too good at spelling words.

Are there some things that you are pretty good at? Are there some things that you don't do very well? (One student admitted he was not good at math.)

I know two brothers; one is very good at baseball and the other doesn't enjoy sports but he really enjoys cooking and artwork.

Let's think about each of the chess pieces, what each one can do and cannot do:

The **Rook** can move vertically and horizontally but he cannot move diagonally and he cannot jump over other players.

The **Bishop** can move diagonally but not vertically or horizontally. He cannot jump over other players.

The **Pawn** can move two squares at the beginning but after that he can move only one square at a time. He makes steady but slow progress. He can move diagonally, but only when he is capturing another piece.

The **Knight** can move in an L shape (show the children). He is the only piece that can jump over another piece.

The **Queen** can do the most of any of the pieces. The Queen can move vertically, horizontally and diagonally, but she cannot move the way a Knight can. Also, she can't jump over other pieces like the Knight can.

The **King** can move in any direction but only one square at a time. He is a very important piece because the other team is trying to get him in checkmate (getting him into a check from which he cannot escape).

So we have seen that each piece has things it can do and things it can't do. **However, all the pieces work together to win the game.**

The same is true in the church. We all have different talents and different gifts, things we can do well and things we can't do very well. The wonderful thing is we can all work together to be the kind of church God wants us to be. Maybe some of you are very friendly and you do well at going up to visitors and saying hello and talking to them. Perhaps some of you are good at snow shoveling, raking leaves, cleaning up, and helping out around the church. Maybe some of you are really good at visiting some older people or sick people and cheering them up. Some of you might be really good at music--singing or playing an instrument. We all want to use our abilities and talents to serve the Lord in little or big ways, working together in God's local assembly of believers.